

Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement (Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)

Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by written representations, Rugby Borough Council has accepted the findings of the examination report and confirms that the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This decision statement and the examination report are available on the Borough Council's website, at the Town Hall and Rugby Town, Dunchurch and Wolston libraries.

Background

3. Following an application by Willoughby Parish Council (as the Neighbourhood Plan Qualifying Body), on 5 October 2017 Rugby Borough Council formally designated Willoughby Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.
4. Willoughby Parish Council carried out an initial consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan between 7 May 2018 to 3 June 2018, and a pre-submission consultation between 21 January 2019 to 10 March 2019 (Regulation 14).
5. The Neighbourhood Plan was then submitted to Rugby Borough Council on 16 May 2019 in accordance with Regulation 15. A Public consultation was then carried out between 25 June 2019 to 6 August 2019 (Regulation 16)
6. Rugby Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, to examine whether the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum (Regulation 17).
7. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan was able to comply with the 'basic conditions' and other relevant statutory provisions, and that the draft plan as modified can be submitted for referendum.
8. The Examiner's Report (10 September 2019) concludes by stating:

"On the basis of the findings in this report I recommend to Rugby Borough Council that subject to the incorporation of the modifications set out in this report that the Willoughby Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to referendum"

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

9. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
10. Rugby Borough Council, in agreement with Willoughby Parish Council, have accepted the recommended modifications, and the Neighbourhood Plan has been updated accordingly so that it can comply with the 'basic conditions' and provisions as set out in legislation. The decision to formally accept the findings of the report, and consequently progress to a referendum, was made on 7 October 2019.
11. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which asks the question, 'Do you want Rugby Borough Council to use the Willoughby Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Willoughby Neighbourhood Area?' will be held in the area formally designated as the Willoughby Neighbourhood Area.
12. The date on which the referendum will take place is Monday 2 December 2019.
13. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the area, alongside the Rugby Borough Local Plan.